

April 19, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Choose Environmental Excellence Awards Presentation

The Twelfth Annual Springfield/Greene County *Choose Environmental Excellence* awards will be presented Friday, April 20, 2012, at a luncheon at the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce as a part of Springfield's Earth Day festivities. Eleven organizations will be presenting awards this year.

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks award will showcase accomplishments that further the protection of Springfield's drinking water resources. Mike Kromrey, Executive Director will present the award. (Contact: Mike Kromrey 417-866-1127)

Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board members will recognize efforts toward waste reduction and recycling with their Environmental Service Awards. District "O" covers the counties of Christian, Polk, Dallas, Greene and Webster. Commissioner Harold Bengsch will present the awards. (Contact: Robert Hamilton 417-859-5786)

The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board will recognize a business, agency, group or individual that has gone beyond normal practices to promote, improve or support sustainable environmentally conscious activities. Board Vice Chair, Melissa Cox and Member Wendy Anderson, will make the presentation. (Contact: Karen McKinnis -417- 864-1623)

The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a subcommittee of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, will recognize efforts made to benefit the health of citizens in the region through air quality protection and improvement. Doug Neidigh, Executive Director of Drury University's Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions will present the award. (Contact: Doug Neidigh – 417-873-7641)

The Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee will recognize efforts toward protecting and enhancing Springfield's community forest. Chair, Jane Earnhart, will make the presentation. (Contacts: Casey Kellner – 864-1135, Benjamin Kellner – 417-864-1178)

The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society will recognize exemplary efforts toward their mission of promoting bird conservation in southwest Missouri. Dr. Ruth Grant, Vice President, will present the award. (Contact: Dave Catlin at 417-889-9940)

The Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks will recognize efforts exemplifying partnering and working together to foster an appreciation of the role of a healthy natural environment in the health and well being of the southwest Missouri region. Michelle Garand will present the award. (Contact: Barbara Lucks – 417-864-2005)

Ozark Greenways, Inc. will recognize efforts toward meeting the organization's mission of preserving green space through linear parks (greenways/trails). Terry Whaley, Executive Director, will present the award. (Contact: Terry Whaley at 417-864-2014)

Springfield Plateau Chapter Missouri Master Naturalists will recognize the outstanding contributions of an individual toward conservation of the natural environment. President, Jennifer Ailor, will present the award. (Contact: Jennifer Ailor at 417-581-4018)

Ozarks Green Building Council will recognize accomplishments furthering the acceptance and implementation of green building practices. Vice-President Korina Branson will make the presentation. (Contact: Korina Branson at 417-766-1441)

Missouri State University Sustainability Advisory Committee will recognize efforts demonstrating a sustained commitment to environmental excellence, programming that makes an impact on environmental excellence and outcomes that indicate that the award winner is making a difference. Co-chair, Ken McClure, Vice President for Administrative and Information Services will make the presentation. (Contact: Ken McClure, Vice President for Administrative and Information Services at 417-836-5233 or Tamera Jahnke, Dean, College of Natural and Applied Sciences at 417-836-5249)

Reservations for the luncheon are available by calling or e-mailing Barbara Lucks (see below) or utilizing the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce web page. The cost is \$12.

Choose Environmental Excellence is a voluntary, non-regulatory education program that encourages increased awareness of our impact on our natural environment, presents viable alternatives and recognizes accomplishments that foster environmentally responsible decisions.

For more information, contact: Barbara Lucks, Project Coordinator, Springfield-Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence, 417-864-2005, blucks@springfieldmo.gov